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ACTION DHA-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 MCT-01 SCS-03
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2334
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[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 7014

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: DEUTSCH CASE - NEW INFORMATION

REF: BUENOS AIRES 6629, BUENOS AIRES 6665

1. FIANCÉE OF SUSANNA DEUTSCH, ANTONIO GRANERO (STRICTLY PROTECT), VISITED EMBASSY EVENING SEPTEMBER 16 AND GAVE DETAILS OF THE DEUTSCH FAMILY ARREST AND DETENTION WHICH WE REGARD AS PROBABLY ACCURATE. THESE DETAILS COME FROM NEIGHBORS OF THE FAMILY, FROM A YOUNG WOMAN RECENTLY FREED FROM AN INTERROGATION CENTER WHERE SHE, THE DEUTSCH FAMILY AND NINE OTHERS WERE LOCKED UP TOGETHER, AND FROM A NOTARY PUBLIC ALLOWED TO VISIT MR. AND MRS. DEUTSCH TO SIGN PAPERS REGARDING CONDUCT OF HIS BUSINESS DURING HIS INCARCERATION.

2. THE ARREST.

NEIGHBORS OF THE DEUTSCH FAMILY NOTICED THE PRESENCE OF "PRIVATE" VEHICLES AT ABOUT 2330 ON AUGUST 25. THE CAR'S OCCUPANTS WERE DRESSED IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES BUT CARRIED

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RIFLES AND SMALL ARMS. FEARING SOME KIND OF ASSAULT, THESE

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny
Exemptions(s):
Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full DECLASSIFIED
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date Declassify on Reason

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NEIGHBORS CONTACTED POLICE AND WERE TOLD THERE WAS IN PROGRESS A POLICE MATTER HAVING TO DO WITH SECURITY FORCES. POLICE OPERATIONS IN THE HOUSE LASTED UNTIL ABOUT 0530 AUGUST 26. A PAINTER ARRIVING AT THE HOUSE AT ABOUT 0800 FOUND WINDOWS AND ONE DOOR BROKEN AND THE HOUSE IN TOTAL DISARRAY. HE ALSO REPORTED A STRONG SMELL OF TEAR GAS.

3. INTERROGATIONS.

NO NOTICE OF THE DEUTSCH FAMILY WHEREABOUTS WAS ISSUED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 7, WHEN A COMMUNIQUE FROM THE THIRD ARMY CORPS ANNOUNCED THE ARREST OF FIVE MEMBERS OF THE DEUTSCH FAMILY FOR INVESTIGATION OF PRESUMED TIES WITH SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES. FROM TIME OF DETENTION UNTIL SEPTEMBER 8 THE FAMILY WAS HELD IN "CAMPO DE LA RIVERA," IN A ROOM WITH SOME FIFTEEN OTHER PERSONS. THEY WERE BLINDFOLDED AND MADE TO SLEEP ON THE FLOOR, AND THEY WERE NOT PERMITTED TO TALK TO ONE ANOTHER. FAMILY MEMBERS WERE BEATEN AND HAD THEIR HEADS SUBMERGED IN TANKS OF WATER DURING THEIR INTERROGATIONS.

4. CONDITIONS IN JAIL.

ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 THE DEUTSCH FAMILY WAS MOVED AND TAKEN TO THE "PENITENCIARIA" OF CORDOBA A PLACE WHERE OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE HELD. ALEJANDRO IS REPORTED HELD IN A CELL WITH SEVEN OTHER MEN, UNDER PRIMITIVE SANITARY CONDITIONS. THE FEMALE MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY ARE EACH LOCKED UP SEPARATELY IN THREE FEET BY EIGHT FEET CELLS. THEY ARE ALLOWED THE USE OF TOILET BUCKETS AND ARE PERMITTED TO LEAVE THEIR CELLS DAILY BETWEEN 1200 AND 1400. THEY ARE PERMITTED NO VISITS FROM OUTSIDE AND ARE KEPT IN COMPLETE

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ISOLATION. ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 THEY WERE GIVEN FOR THE FIRST TIME A CHANGE OF CLOTHES AND SOME UTENSILS FOR PERSONAL USE.

5. STATE OF HEALTH.

AMONG DOCUMENTS GRANERO PRESENTED WAS A MEMORANDUM FROM A CORDOBA CARDIOLOGIST WHO EXAMINED ALEJANDRO DEUTSCH DESCRIBING A CONDITION OF POOR CARDIAC CIRCULATION,

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A HIGH CHOLESTEROL COUNT AND URINE TEST RESULTS INDICATING (WE BELIEVE) A DIABETIC CONDITION. THE ASSESSMENT DATES FROM AN AUGUST EXAMINATION. THE NOTARY PUBLIC WHO SAW DEUTSCH ESTIMATED HE HAS LOST MORE THEN 10 KILOS (22 LBS), AND APPEARS TO BE IN BAD CONDITION. DURING THE INTERVIEW WITH THE NOTARY MRS. DEUTSCH STARED AT THE WALL. THE NOTARY BELIEVES THAT DEUTSCH IS SUFFERRING MENTAL ANGUISH BECAUSE HE DOES NOT KNOW WHY HE FINDS HIMSELF IN HIS PRESENT SITUATION.

6. GRANERO PASSED A NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS TO EMBASSY WHICH ARE BEING POUCHED TO ARA/ECA:BUMPUS. AMONG THESE IS A NOTARIZED ACCOUNTING OF ITEMS GRANERO FOUND MISSING FROM THE DEUTSCH HOME. THEY INCLUDE CURRENCY, JEWELRY AND APPLIANCES. GRANERO TOLD EMBASSY HE ALREADY, BEFORE COMING HERE, HAD MADE VISIT TO ASSOCIATED PRESS OFFICE. AP HAS FILED STORY CONTINING THIS INFO.

7. EMBASSY DISCUSSIONS OF THIS INFO WITH SENIOR GOA OFFICIALS WILL BE SUBJECT OF SEPTELS.
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